

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for combusting an organic waste concentrate, which contains alkali metal compounds, under oxidative conditions for recovering said alkali metal compounds as alkali metal carbonates, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the combustion is carried out at a temperature of at least 850°C, and the formed flue gases are cooled below a sticking temperature range of the alkali metal carbonates formed during the combustion by mixing a colder medium to the flue gases, and simultaneously water is poured on the walls of a cooling zone at least at the sticking temperature range, whereby alkali metal carbonates formed during the combustion dissolve in water to form a recoverable aqueous solution.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the combustion is carried out at a temperature ranging from 900 to 1250°C, which is controlled by the amount of combustion air.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the formed flue gases are cooled below 600 °C by mixing water and/or air and/or colder flue gas to said formed flue gases.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution containing dissolved alkali metal carbonates is poured on the walls of the cooling zone.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a waste concentrate having a solids content of at least about 25% by weight is combusted.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a stoichiometric excess of limestone and/or burnt lime with respect to sulfur and silicate compounds contained in the waste concentrate to be combusted is added to the combustion.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein lime stone and/or burnt lime is added in a finely pulverized form to a waste concentrate to be combusted prior to drying thereof.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the waste concentrate to be combusted is a dry powder.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the waste concentrate to be combusted is a spent liquor concentrate from impregnation and/or bleaching of mechanical or chemi-mechanical pulp.

Claim 10. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the formed flue gases are cooled below 600 °C by mixing water and/or air and/or colder flue gas to said formed flue gases.

Claim 11. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein an aqueous solution containing dissolved alkali metal carbonates is poured on the walls of the cooling zone.

Claim 12. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein an aqueous solution containing dissolved alkali metal carbonates is poured on the walls of the cooling zone.

Claim 13. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein a waste concentrate having a solids content of at least about 25% by weight is combusted.

Claim 14. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein a waste concentrate having a solids content of at least about 25% by weight is combusted.

Claim 15. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein a stoichiometric excess of limestone and/or burnt lime with respect to sulfur and silicate compounds contained in the waste concentrate to be combusted is added to the combustion.

Claim 16. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein a stoichiometric excess of limestone and/or burnt lime with respect to sulfur and silicate compounds contained in the waste concentrate to be combusted is added to the combustion.

Claim 17. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein lime stone and/or burnt lime is added in a finely pulverized form to a waste concentrate to be combusted prior to drying thereof.

Claim 18. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein lime stone and/or burnt lime is added in a finely pulverized form to a waste concentrate to be combusted prior to drying thereof.

Claim 19. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the waste concentrate to be combusted is a dry powder.

Claim 20. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the waste concentrate to be combusted is a spent liquor concentrate from impregnation and/or bleaching of mechanical or chemi-mechanical pulp.